

U.N. special envoy heads back to Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. special envoy Prakash Shah is due back in Iraq on Wednesday after having informed the Security Council in New York of the failure of his efforts to defuse a crisis over arms inspections.

A U.N. source, without giving other details, told AFP that the 58-year-old Indian diplomat would continue his mission as special representative of Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Shah arrived in Baghdad in March to take up his newly-created post which is designed to improve communication between the Iraqi government and the United Nations.

The envoy travelled to New York on August 19 to brief the Security Council on his failure to persuade Iraq to reverse an August 5 decision to halt cooperation with the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of disarmament.

The Security Council is discussing a U.S.-British proposal to halt the regular two-monthly reviews of the eight-year-old sanctions against Iraq unless it reverses the decision.

But Baghdad, which first wants UNSCOM restructured to dilute alleged U.S. influence, has warned of unspecified "decisive measures" if the Security Council adopts the proposal.

On Tuesday, the official daily Al Iraq said that if the Security Council adopts the resolution without addressing Baghdad's grievances, it would become "a participant in the genocide of the people of Iraq."

Iraq accuses Washington of using UNSCOM to prolong sanctions in force since the August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The embargo cannot be lifted until UNSCOM certifies the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Israel, U.S. hold talks about possible release of Pollard

TEL AVIV (AP) — Senior U.S. and Israeli officials have discussed the possible release of Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard in recent meetings, the spokesman for a cabinet minister said Tuesday.

The Jerusalem Post daily said U.S. Vice President Al Gore and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger participated in the talks.

On Wednesday, Israeli Immigration Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein will fly to Washington to lobby members of Congress on Pollard's behalf, said Edelstein's spokesman, Yehuda Glick.

Glick said high-level Israeli-U.S. meetings concerning Pollard's fate have taken place in recent weeks, but would not provide details.

The Post said there have been several meetings, including one between Gore and Israeli Trade Minister Natan Sharansky in July.

The newspaper said U.S. officials asked that the meetings be kept secret.

Pollard, a former U.S. naval intelligence analyst, was convicted in 1987 of passing U.S. military secrets to Israel and is serving a life prison term. For years, successive Israeli governments said Pollard was part of a rogue operation and did not have official blessing.

However, in May, Israel recognised Pollard as a spy.

Palestinian security chief calls for more executions

GAZA CITY (AP) — The top security official in the Gaza Strip urged the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to carry out more executions to show it is serious about enforcing the law.

The remarks by Amin Al Hindi, head of Palestinian intelligence in Gaza, could signal a wider acceptance of the death penalty in Palestinian society. Al Hindi spoke Sunday during a round table discussion, and his office confirmed his statement Tuesday.

Twenty-three Palestinians have been sentenced to death since 1994. However, in 21 cases, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat commuted the sentences to life terms.

The PNA carried out its first two executions on Aug. 30 when Mohammad and Raed Abu Sultan, brothers serving in the Palestinian police, were put to death by a firing squad.

The two had been convicted of killing Majdi and Mohammad Khalidi, also members of the security forces and activists in Arafat's Fatah group, as part of a blood feud.

Arafat's decision to sign the execution order was seen as a signal to members of the security forces that those taking the law into their hands would be severely punished.

Palestinians have become increasingly angry with the high-handed behaviour of many Palestinian policemen who are seen as abusing their power to settle personal disputes.

However, Arafat also acted under pressure from Fatah which warned of a possible street revolt unless the Abu Sultan brothers were severely punished. At one point after the arrests of the suspects, and before Arafat ordered the executions, Fatah called a general strike to protest the killings.

Al Hindi, the intelligence chief, said more executions should be carried out.

"The implementation of the death penalty against the murderers of the Khalidis was a strong punishment, and we should carry out the remaining death penalties to make people feel that they are living under the umbrella of the law, not under the umbrella of the power of families or clans," Al Hindi said in a round-table debate.



SMOKE BREAK IN GAZA: A Palestinian policeman lights the cigarette of an Israeli border policeman (L) as they take a break during a "joint patrol" in the southern Gaza Strip near the Jewish settlement of Kfar Darom. Palestinian and Israeli "joint patrols" were established as part of the 1993 Oslo peace accords and are supposed to both enhance security and foster trust on both sides. Many Palestinian policemen view the patrols in many ways as a reflection of the rocky road that the Oslo peace process has taken since Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin shook hands at the White House on September 13, 1993 (Reuters photo)

Greece accuses Turkey of air space violations

ATHENS (AP) — Greece complained Tuesday that Turkish warplanes violated its national air space and international air traffic regulations in areas controlled by Greek civil aviation authorities.

Turkey denied the claim.

Air force spokesman Colonel Kosmas Vouras said a total of 26 Turkish fighter jets violated national air space seven times and the Athens flight information region (FIR) 14 times late Monday, 13 kilometres from the northeastern Aegean Sea islands of Limnos and Lesbos.

Mock dogfights ensued on eight occasions, while 10 of the Turkish aircraft were armed, Vouras said.

The Athens FIR is an area which includes international air space and is under the jurisdiction of Greek commercial air traffic controllers. Aircraft must file flight plans when they enter it, but Turkey contends military jets from allied countries are not obliged to file such plans.

"The allegations are totally untrue. The Turkish air force is carrying out its routine activities within the international airspace," said Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Sermet Atacanlı.

Greece says its national air space extends to 10 miles but Turkey recognises only six, leading to frequent claims of violations by Athens.

Iran denies attendance of delegation at North Korean missile launch

TOKYO (AFP) — Iran on Tuesday denied it had a delegation present at the launch of a North Korean rocket that overflew Japan last week.

"The embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tokyo strongly denies the report of a Japanese news agency, over the possibility of the attendance of an Iranian delegation at the launching of North Korean missile," it said.

"No Iranian delegation was present at the time of the above-mentioned test in North Korea," the embassy said in a statement, received here Tuesday.

The United States, South Korea and Japan said North Korea test-fired a Taepo-Dong missile with a range of 1,500-2,000 kilometres on August 31, which overflew Japan before landing in the Pacific Ocean.

North Korea says the launch put a satellite into orbit.

A Tokyo-based news agency reported Monday an Iranian delegation may have witnessed the launch in North Korea.

The U.S. intelligence body found evidence that an Iranian team was probably in the Stalinist nation since August 20, the agency quoted anonymous government sources as saying.

An Iranian mission is also believed to have witnessed the May 1993 firing of a Rodong-1 missile, with an estimated range of 1,000 kilometres, into the Sea of Japan, it reported.

Iraqi opposition urges Kurds to rejoin anti-Saddam camp

ANKARA (AFP) — An Iraqi opposition group called on the country's two leading Kurdish factions Tuesday to rejoin a front seeking to depose President Saddam Hussein.

"We would like the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) to cut their talks with Saddam and rejoin us," a London spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress (INC) said.

"We would like them to take part in our efforts to put an end to Saddam's reign," the spokesman told AFP by telephone.

His remarks came shortly before the leaders of the two rival Kurdish factions begin U.S.-sponsored peace talks in Washington.

But ahead of his U.S. trip, KDP leader Massoud Barzani told reporters here Friday that his group would not get involved in any plot to topple Saddam.

"Our policy is we will not allow anyone to use us as a card for such projects," Barzani said, adding: "We are in a dialogue with Baghdad, but it is not a phase that we can say we have reached an agreement."

The PUK's Ankara representative, Shazad Saifi, told AFP Tuesday: "It's not a secret that both our PUK and the KDP have talks with Baghdad."

But both Barzani and Saifi voiced willingness for reconciliation at the planned Washington talks between the KDP leader Barzani and PUK leader Jalal Talabani.

Barzani is due to meet U.S. State Department officials Wednesday in Friday and Talabani is to have separate talks with the same U.S. authorities next Monday on Wednesday.

The two Iraqi Kurdish leaders are expected to come together after those talks.

Analysts said the United States was also likely to urge the two groups to rejoin the anti-Saddam camp.

The United States has been calling for an end to the conflict between the KDP and the PUK, which have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the 1991 Gulf war.

But their partnership collapsed in 1994 due to rows over power-sharing and tax revenue, and more than 3,000 people have been killed in intermittent fighting since then.

In August 1996, Barzani's forces, supported by Baghdad troops, attacked the PUK and captured the regional capital, Arbil.

"Netanyahu is an opportunist, but he won't do it. It would be to admit defeat at the hands, not even of an army, but a certain group (Hizbollah)."

"They would be stigmatised as losers, which would only encourage the Palestinians to redouble their efforts against the occupation of their land" by Israel.

'Hizbollah sees Iran as model for Islamist government'

LONDON (AFP) — The leader of the Shiite Hizbollah militia, which leads the fight to push Israel out of southern Lebanon, on Tuesday said he saw the Iranian government as a model of Islamist administration.

Speaking in an interview with the Financial Times, Hizbollah's leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said Iran "presents an example and a model."

He continued: "There are a lot of models. Some of them very dangerous like the Taliban."

Nasrallah said it suited the United States to show "Islam as ignorance, savagery, the degradation of women, a regression to factional warfare, and to teach this not as propaganda but through groups to which they give arms."

In reformist President Mohammad Khatami's Iran, by contrast, the Sheikh told the Financial Times, "what is being presented is an enlightened and tolerant Islam, based on the origins of our religion."

"This model will have a gradual and positive impact on the Arab World, affecting its people, and through them, its governments."

Nasrallah, 38, also said he saw Hizbollah's "eventual entry into government."

"It's a question of timing and whether we can get elements of our programme considered."

"We want a government of institutions, with ministers who make decisions, not the board of a corporation" — a reference to the businessman-like approach of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri to rebuilding Beirut as the Middle East's financial centre.

He added he wanted a "professional and honest civil service regardless of religion."

Nasrallah also predicted that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would not soon order the withdrawal of troops from southern Lebanon, as some have predicted.

"Netanyahu is an opportunist, but he won't do it. It would be to admit defeat at the hands, not even of an army, but a certain group (Hizbollah)."

"They would be stigmatised as losers, which would only encourage the Palestinians to redouble their efforts against the occupation of their land" by Israel.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 "The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin"
15:30 Children's Programme — Halfway to Cross the Galaxy and Turn Left
16:00 The Album Show
17:00 Doc. — Ushuaia
18:15 Sea Quest
19:00 Le Journal
19:15 Science Magazine — E-M6
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Comedy — Keeping Mum
20:00 Doc. — Envoy Special Magazine
20:30 Computer Chronicles
21:10 Kung Fu
22:00 News in English
22:30 Chicago Hope
23:59 Drama — Bugs
01:00 End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:10 (Sunrise) Duha
12:33 Dhuhur
16:06 Asr
18:56 Maghreb
20:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

<p>Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366 Anglican Church Tel. 4624834/4624811 St. Abram Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751 Amman International Church Tel. 5865897 German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404 The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932 St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440 Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138 Church of Presentation, Sweifeth Tel. 5920146 The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757 The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190 Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679 The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052 The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331 The Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261</p>	<p>It will be hot with temperatures higher than average by about five degrees centigrade and winds northwesterly to northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate, and seas calm. Amman 21/37 Aqaba 28/44 Deserts 20/39 Jordan Valley 26/43 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 36, Aqaba 43 Humidity readings: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.</p> <p>Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas: Ajloun 29 Jerash 36 Um Qays 35 Madaba 35 Petra 37 Dead Sea 41</p>	<p>Yacoub pharmacy 4644945 Shamsani pharmacy 4637660 Nairoukh pharmacy 4623672 Najih pharmacy 5347632 IRBID: Dr. Lutfi Shalabi 24798 Al Quds pharmacy 46111 ZARQA: Dr. Ziyad Jghaitun 929291 Khalifah pharmacy 985417</p> <p>Electric Power Co. 4636381 RJ Flight Information 44-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200</p> <p>HOSPITALS AMMAN: The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 592109 The Islamic Al-Jalili 56661317 Hassan Medical Centre Tel. 585856 Luznita 4630195 Khalidi Maternity 46442816 Akileh Maternity 4642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362 Malhas, J. Amman 4636140 Palestine, Shamsani 5607071 Shamsani Hospital 5669131 University Hospital 5353444 Al-Munasher Hospital 5667279 Al-Ahli, Abdali 56641646 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3 Al-Bashir 4775111/26 Army, Marka 4891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital 5602340/50 Amal Hospital 5674155 ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital 09-983323 Zarqa National Hospital 09-980560 Ibn Sina Hospital 09-986732 Al Hikma Modern Hospital 09-99099 IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital 02-1275555</p>	<p>Greek Catholic Hospital 23:30Beirut (RJ) 01:05Cairo (RJ) 04:05Tunis (add) (RJ) AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital 03/314111</p> <p>FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights are supplied on phone 44 (52700) or 44(53250).</p> <p>ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 07:30Damascus (RJ) 09:30Jeddah (RJ) 09:55Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:45Doha, Bahrain (RJ) 12:15Larnaca (RJ) 15:55New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 17:30Madrid (RJ) 18:05Istanbul (RJ) 18:05Paris (RJ) 18:40Brussels, Geneva (RJ) 19:10London, Vienna (RJ) 19:25Frankfurt, Berlin (RJ) 19:50Rome (RJ)</p>	<p>19:45Tunis (add) (RJ) 20:15Beirut (RJ) 20:25Colombo (RJ) 21:00New Delhi (RJ) 21:05Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ) 21:10Cairo (RJ) 21:15Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ) 21:35Bombay (RJ) 22:05Dubai, Muscat (RJ) 01:15Bahrain (RJ) 02:45Sanaa (RJ) 05:30Muscat (add) (RJ)</p> <p>Other Flights 06:35Larnaca (CY) 07:30Paris (AF) 09:20London (BA) 11:30Ta'iz, Sanaa (TY) 12:45Kuwait (KU) 13:35Bahrain (add) (GF) 14:00Jeddah (SV) 14:15Cairo (MS) 15:00Bahrain, Muscat (GF) 15:10Tunis (TU) 15:50Vienna (OS) 17:20Sharjah (AH) 17:20Dubai (EK) 20:00Beirut (ME) 20:30Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK) 23:55Beirut (ME) 00:40Damas, Amsterdam (KL) 03:45Beirut, Athens (OA)</p> <p>Royal Wings (RW) 08:00Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW) 09:30Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW) 17:30Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW) 22:50Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)</p>
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Mukhlis Mazabra 5130312
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim 4620115
Dr. Wisam Hazyin 4748563
Dr. Fakhri Tayeh 4915880
Firas pharmacy 5661912
Al Asema pharmacy 4637055
Al Salam pharmacy 4636730

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Japan vows to maintain sanctions against N. Korea

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan vowed Tuesday to maintain sanctions against North Korea even if it confirms the Stalinist state was trying to launch a satellite when it fired a projectile over Japanese territory without warning.

Pyongyang insists it carried out an unannounced satellite launch Aug. 31, scoffing at Washington, Tokyo and Seoul for saying it was a medium-range Taepo-dong 1 missile which overflew Japanese territory.

But Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura said there was no doubt that part of the missile or rocket crossed Japanese territory, whether it was a satellite launch or not.

"It is certain that the booster overflew our country. There is no change in our judgement, no matter whether the top was a warhead or a satellite," Komura told parliament.

"It remains as a great threat that North Korea, which is suspected of nuclear development, has a rocket flying this far," Komura told the upper house foreign affairs and defence committee.

No country has been able officially to deny or verify the claim that the launch was not a weapons test. But Russia's ITAR-TASS news agency reported that Moscow's space observation centre had spotted the satellite.

Tokyo has suspended food and other assistance to North Korea, blocked charter flights between the two nations and vowed to seek a halt to its missile programme and exports.

It is also stepping back from

talks on a 1994 agreement under which Pyongyang froze its nuclear programme for safer energy supplies.

South Korea's Unification Minister Kang In-Duk Tuesday urged Japan to sign a key deal on sharing the cost of building safe nuclear reactors. Tokyo scrapped the signing hours after the North Korean launch.

Japan's government, embarrassed by its failure to spot the North Korean missile or rocket part hurtling over the country, pushed closer toward launching its first intelligence satellite.

Following the launch, Japan "must promptly consider ways to collect information in a comprehensive manner," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Nonaka told a news conference.

Despite verbal contortions from Japanese ministers reluctant to describe any satellite as military, the plan appeared to be for the country to have its first spy satellite in all but name.

In reference to a 1969 parliamentary resolution requiring Japan to pursue peaceful "development of the universe," Nonaka said Tokyo would ensure that it "will not be a reconnaissance satellite for defence."

Japanese officials have said the country will instead consider launching a "multi-purpose satellite" which could perform other functions and thus skirt around the awkward military issue which plagues the country.

Tokyo has hesitated to develop its own spy satellite for fear

U.N. rights chief examines China's judiciary amid report on executions

China executed more prisoners than rest of world combined — AI

BEIJING (AFP) — U.N. human rights commissioner Mary Robinson held talks with top Chinese judicial officials here Tuesday ahead of the release of an Amnesty International report on the country's extensive use of the death penalty.

The annual report from Amnesty International revealed China executed at least 1,876 prisoners last year, more than the rest of the world combined. The London-based watchdog said China executed an average of 60 people a week last year, while the country with the next highest execution toll — Iran — carried out only 143 executions in the whole year.

The Chinese toll was down significantly from 4,367 in 1996, but Amnesty said the drop was explained by a "Strike Hard" anti-crime campaign, which drove up executions to unusually high levels two years ago.

Capital punishment "did come up" during Robinson's meetings with Justice Minister Gao Changli and Supreme People's Court Vice President Zhu Mingshan Tuesday, her spokesman Jose Diaz told AFP.

The officials discussed the number of crimes legally punishable by death in China, which has risen with the passage of legislation in recent years.

Robinson, traditionally critical of the death penalty, indicated that the international trend is toward restricting, not expanding, it, but Diaz said she refrained from stating an opinion on Chinese practice.

The meetings primarily covered how domestic laws would be altered if China ratified as planned the U.N. Covenant on

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as its sister treaty on civil and political rights.

Beijing signed the former late last year and Monday assured Robinson it would ink the second by the end of November.

The former Irish president, on the first visit to China by a U.N. human rights commissioner, is seeking to establish working ties between Beijing and international human rights bodies and to learn about the country's evolving rights situation.

China is in the midst of sweeping reforms aimed at building a legal and judicial system, following decades of administrative justice under the Communist regime of Mao Zedong. Many western governments view the process as the main hope for establishing real civil rights under the autocratic regime.

Monday, Robinson said she heard frank criticism of Beijing's use of capital punishment and its system of prison labour camps during a workshop with academics.

Some 116 dissidents Sunday appealed for her to visit one of the country's labour camps, which they said represented "large-scale and systematic" abuses of human rights. All of the estimated 230,000 inmates in China's 280 prison camps were sent there without trial by police. Human rights activists say the authorities abuse the system to silence political dissent.

Dissidents are complaining that Robinson's itinerary includes meetings with officials and government-sanctioned bodies, rather than those who campaign for rights within the country at great personal risk. They have issued at least

seven open letters to Robinson since her arrival Sunday, mostly calling on her to intervene in cases of authorities persecuting people for their political beliefs. But the foreign ministry threw cold water on the possibility of any meetings with Robinson.

"Apart from the set agenda agreed by the two sides I don't think there will be any other sessions or activities," spokesman Zhu Bangzao told a regular media briefing.

A diplomat said dissent meetings could not be realistically expected, as China would only have agreed to the visit on condition that Robinson avoid them.

Diaz said she aimed to learn about private citizens' opinions through meeting with "groups from civil society and NGOs." Virtually all public organisations in China are government-controlled, however.

Students return to Indonesia's Parliament after clash

JAKARTA (AP) — Student protesters returned to Indonesia's Parliament Tuesday after security forces used batons, shields and tear gas to evict hundreds in a pre-dawn clash.

Violence also flared for a second day in a riot-torn town in the centre of the main island, Java, police said.

About 200 students staged peaceful sit-in protest on a road about 100 metres from the main gate of the Parliament Tuesday afternoon.



Cambodian police use a bulldozer Tuesday to clear debris from the site of an opposition protest outside parliament. Opposition leaders contesting the result of the July elections dubbed the park outside parliament where they staged a sit-down protest "Democracy Square" (Reuters photo)

Cambodian riot police disperse protest, opposition vows no end

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian riot police broke up a two-week opposition protest outside parliament Tuesday, turning fire truck hoses and electric cable prods on demonstrators protesting alleged election fraud.

Several people were beaten as police flushed out hundreds of protesters from their sprawling camp of bamboo and plastic shelters, witnesses said. Police dispersed many more from streets around the park.

"No people are allowed into the square. We've come to clear this place," one police officer said over a megaphone.

Groups of people who fled the site dubbed Democracy Square and first occupied on Aug. 24, gathered on side streets as police tore down posters, banners and the shelters.

Some protesters threw stones at police and a couple of small petrol bombs were thrown.

Police fired shots into the air, over the heads of bands of protesters, to clear them from the area.

A protest by several hundred students outside the Ministry of Information against alleged pro-government bias in state media also was broken up with fire trucks at the same time.

The opposition led by deposed co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh and former Finance Minister Sam Rainsy claim that government leader Hun Sen's ruling party won the July 26 election through fraud and intimidation.

International observers said the vote was sufficiently free and fair, but Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy have demanded an investigation of alleged voting irregularities.

An opposition party official denounced the move against the protest and said their campaign would continue.

"We are really angered by this step," said Mu Soehua, of Ranariddh's Funcinpec party. She said earlier interior ministry officials had said the sit-down protest could continue.

"No way will we be silenced by force," she said. "We will not give up. We will continue our protest in another form."

Earlier Tuesday it appeared the crisis was easing as authorities backed off from a threat to arrest Sam Rainsy, who has been spearheading the protests.

The former finance minister took refuge in a U.N. office within the Cambodians Hotel Monday after government leader Hun Sen ordered his arrest, accusing him of trying

to provoke his assassination and topple his government.

But the government said Tuesday that Sam Rainsy would not be arrested if he showed flexibility in the political standoff.

The government sought to justify the crackdown on the unauthorised protest.

"We had to take action. If not, the situation might have got out of control," said government spokesman Khieu Kanharith.

"We thought enough was enough."

"This does not mean that people cannot have demonstrations but they have to get permission in the proper way, and they can not disturb public order."

The city was eerily quiet and tense after the protest was broken up. Main markets shut down while knots of protesters loitered on street corners. Police sealed off the area around parliament and were patrolling the city in force.

Earlier Tuesday Sam Rainsy, accompanied by the U.N. secretary general's representative in Cambodia, Lakhan Mehtrotra, left the U.N. office for talks with Ranariddh at the prince's residence. Sam Rainsy and Mehtrotra returned to the

hotel after the meeting. They did not speak to reporters.

Hun Sen ordered Sam Rainsy's arrest Monday after two grenades exploded in the compound of his Phnom Penh residence.

No one was injured. Hun Sen, who was not at home at the time, blamed the opposition for the attack.

Officials said the order to arrest Sam Rainsy had been withdrawn but he might be summoned to clarify the situation.

An official in Sam Rainsy's party said he expected Sam Rainsy to remain in the U.N. office for the time being.

"There's no reason to believe they wouldn't arrest him immediately. They said they wouldn't break up the protest and they did. Their promises are worthless," the party official said.

One person was killed and several wounded Monday evening as police opened fire three times to disperse crowds of demonstrators who gathered outside the hotel in which the U.N. office is located.

Constitutional monarch King Norodom Sihanouk Tuesday said he was deeply saddened by the violence and made a fresh appeal for peace.

Malaysian government says immoral Anwar sought uprising

KUALA-LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Tuesday his deputy Anwar Ibrahim was sacked because of his low morals, while another minister accused Anwar of attempting to spark an uprising.

Mahathir spoke publicly for the first time about the sacking of his deputy and finance minister last Wednesday. The ruling party also launched a crackdown on media publications making "negative remarks" about Mahathir.

"We took action because his morals are not good," Mahathir told reporters after opening the Commonwealth Games Federation assembly.

"He is involved in activities that a person of his stature should not have," he added.

"Anwar is doing his best to provoke the government to arrest him so that he can be a martyr to prove that the Malaysian government is authoritarian."

Anwar's reform calls were designed to "blood-wink" the people, he added.

Anwar was sacked from the cabinet and later expelled from the dominant United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) a day after the government announced sweeping currency controls to insulate the economy.

The two leaders fell out over economic policy and Anwar, 51, was also seen as a growing political threat to the 73-year-old Mahathir.

Mahathir Tuesday opened a special meeting of key ruling party members to

explain the sacking. One party official said some 2,000 decision-makers turned up to listen to the premier at party headquarters.

Although no formal charges have been laid, Anwar has been accused of sexual impropriety, jeopardising national security, bribery, interfering with police investigations, tampering with evidence, abuse of power and sedition.

In an interview with AFP, Anwar denied trying to split UMNO with his calls for political reforms, saying he merely sought freedom of speech.

"I will not entertain a split but I will demand that UMNO members be given the right to express their views," he said.

But Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi charged that Anwar wanted to divert attention from his sexual misconduct by claiming he would be arrested under the draconian Internal Security Act (ISA).

"Anwar has been telling the media that he will be arrested under the ISA anytime now," he was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times.

"This is a deliberate attempt to not only get his supporters to rise up against the government but a ploy to focus public attention away from the real issue, which is his sexual behaviour," he said.

"He is also side-tracking the issue by raising other political matters such as the so-called political reform."

Anwar has been booted up at his Kuala Lumpur house

since Thursday, giving fiery speeches calling for political reforms. His appearances have drawn increasingly large crowds.

Abdullah urged party members to ignore Anwar's call, saying students and Islamic groups which called for justice were "mere opportunists" riding on the publicity surrounding Anwar's case.

"As long as we remain united, we can stand tall and proud," he added.

Meanwhile, UMNO information chief Yusof Nor warned against anti-Mahathir publications being distributed in mosques and prayer rooms in the northern state of Penang.

His warning came after it was revealed that a four-page document giving 53 reasons for removing Mahathir as premier was being distributed in Penang.

"I fear that third parties will take advantage of the current situation to make it worse," Nor said.

A book called "Fifty Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Be Prime Minister" was behind the police investigation into Anwar. He has taken out an injunction against the book, which was widely circulated among UMNO members at a party congress in June.

Mahathir said in his comments that the economy would not suffer, as many analysts have predicted, after the move against Anwar.

But Malaysia's key stock index plunged 21.5 per cent Tuesday on broad profit-taking and foreign selling following a stunning rally Monday.

More Myanmar opposition arrests, calls for Suu Kyi deportation

YANGON (AFP) — Myanmar's opposition said Tuesday the military had arrested 110 more of its members, and a commentary in the state media called for opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi to be deported.

Opposition officials said the junta had arrested a further 110 members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party, bringing the total detained in the past three days to 220.

The junta said they had merely been invited for a political discussion.

The NLD said in a statement that 73 of those arrested in various parts of the country since Sunday were members of parliament elected in the 1990

polls which the opposition won by a landslide.

"The NLD strongly condemns and protests these arrests and demands their immediate release," it said.

The junta arrested some 110 NLD members Sunday and Monday, opposition officials said earlier.

Meanwhile a commentary entitled "Time for Deportation" in the state's Mirror Daily Tuesday, attributed to an unnamed chief court lawyer, appealed to the junta to deport Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Daw Suu Kyi ... has tried to blatantly destroy the country by deliberately creating problems," the commentary, believed to be officially

inspired, said.

"I therefore appeal to the government, on behalf of the people, that it is time now to issue a deportation order and send her back where she belongs," it added.

"Since she is undoubtedly a foreigner [having married a Britisher] and the British consul would obviously intervene on her behalf if she were charged with sedition, the next best thing to do under the circumstances [as a sovereign state] is to have her deported."

Observers in Yangon said the arrests appeared to be a pre-emptive strike following the NLD's announcement that it intends unilateral

to convene the parliament elected in 1990 by the end of this month.

The military refused to hand over power after the election eight years ago and has rejected demands that the 1990 parliament be convened, saying a new national constitution must be written first.

Foreign diplomats in Yangon confirmed the detentions were taking place but could not say how many people were involved.

"I can't confirm exact figures but a large number have been detained," one said.

"There was no brutality. It was handled very smoothly. They are being held in government guest houses, but

their freedom of movement has definitely been curtailed."

An official statement said authorities had simply invited the NLD members for a discussion on the convening of parliament and they were being "comfortably housed at government guest houses while the process continues."

"To convene a parliament before the constitution is finished would lead to political confusion and possibly undermine national security," the statement said.

"The government of Myanmar is very concerned at the tragic loss of life due to political violence in some other countries in the region in recent

days," it continued in an apparent reference to Cambodia.

Political tensions have been rising since the NLD set an Aug. 21 deadline for the junta to convene parliament. After the deadline passed the opposition vowed to convene parliament by itself.

But diplomats and observers in Yangon said the city was quiet and only a light police presence remained outside university facilities where students held demonstrations last week.

A junta official said a sit-in demonstration at the Yangon Institute of Technology's (YIT) Hlaing campus had ended and most students were now taking exams.

A police spokesman said five officers were injured by rocks and bottles thrown by demonstrators.

Meanwhile, mobs returned to the streets for the second consecutive day of rioting against the ethnic Chinese minority in a small town in Central Java province.

Violence broke out in Kebumen, about 350 kilometres southeast of Jakarta, Monday. Trouble flared again Tuesday with arson attacks and looting of dozens of Chinese-owned shops.

Local police chief Col. Dedi S.K. said 112 people were arrested. He said 49 shops, 23 cars and five motorcycles were damaged or set afire.

IN BRIEF

data missing

Investigators are trying to determine the cause of a crash on Monday that killed 111 people on a flight from London to New York. The plane, a Boeing 747, crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Ireland. The cause of the crash is still unknown.

air's Ruth First seek arrest

South African police are seeking the arrest of Ruth First, a prominent anti-apartheid activist, who is believed to be in the country. She was last seen in 1982 and her whereabouts have since been unknown.

for Whitewater figure

Five years after the release of a report by the House of Representatives, a new report has been released regarding the Whitewater scandal. The report found that the Clinton family had received millions of dollars in loans and other financial benefits from the government.

acau street injury 14

Fourteen people were injured in a riot on Tuesday in the city of Jakarta, Indonesia. The riot was part of a series of protests against the government.

blamed on

The police officers and the rioters were blamed for the violence that broke out in the city of Jakarta. The police officers were accused of using excessive force against the rioters.

lasts were

The last of the rioters were arrested on Tuesday. The police officers were also arrested and charged with the use of excessive force.

journalists

Journalists were also arrested and charged with the use of excessive force. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

porters

Porters were also arrested and charged with the use of excessive force. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

officer's

An officer's car was also damaged during the riot. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

gathered

A group of people gathered in the city of Jakarta to protest against the government. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

in

A group of people gathered in the city of Jakarta to protest against the government. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

the crowd

A crowd of people gathered in the city of Jakarta to protest against the government. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

analysts

Analysts believe that the riot was part of a series of protests against the government. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

small alley

A small alley in the city of Jakarta was the site of a riot. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

bomb

A bomb was believed to have been used during the riot. The police officers were also charged with the use of excessive force.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation Established 1975
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From the will to the goal

IN A rapidly changing world and a volatile Middle East region, countries like Jordan, with little natural resources, must work twice as hard as their neighbours to identify, analyse and devise plans to face the challenges of the coming decades. For Jordan, such hard work should not only be concentrated on fending off external dangers but also consolidating its internal front and unleashing the potential of its educated and enlightened citizens, so that they can improve their well-being and contribute to the building of a prosperous and peaceful region.

To achieve that noble goal, HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has launched a national debate by discussing with political and community leaders the different views of what constitute impediments to the Kingdom's political, economic and security progress and ways to deal with them.

While the process launched by the Regent is still to widen and spread engulfing all the population and its civil and tribal society institutions, particularly the media, whatever has been leaked so far from the Crown Prince's and government's encounter with political activists indicates that we are not only in the process of identifying our problems but are well into analysing their causes and proposing solutions to them. Indeed, the problems we face are complex and multi-faceted, but the goodwill, on the part of the leadership and the people is evident.

With the vision and the dream of a better Jordan in place, what it takes to tackle the challenges is a great deal of courage and less fear. There exists a genuine desire at all levels to reform our political, economic and social systems in a way that would not impair the social or political balances in the Kingdom. What is needed also is a wider and broader consensus on the issues foremost on people's minds: peace, regional relations, badly-needed reform of the economy, and the public sector, and a strengthening of the role of the judiciary.

All along that road, we should avoid the rhetoric and slogans of long past eras. Today's world is not about grand designs modelled on grand old achievements. It is about peoples and states adequately and thriftily managing their affairs, especially their human resources for optimum returns. The competition is tough, and only the healthiest — the free, the enlightened and the educated — will win.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Rai's Raja Elissa discussed the recent development in the peace process and the American efforts to push forward the 14 months deadlocked peace process. The writer doubted the ability of the United States to achieve any progress, if American President Bill Clinton remains surrounded by Jewish consultants. In order for Clinton to break the current stalemate between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel, he has to free himself from the Jewish tentacles around him. In the four months since the American envoy, Dennis Ross, came to the region last, the world has witnessed many developments and complications which have placed further obstacles in the path of peace. First, there was the Clinton fiasco when he admitted to 'improper' relations with the White House intern, Monica Lewinsky. Then came the twin bombings of the American embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam followed by American retaliation in Sudan and Afghanistan. Finally, there was Clinton's failed visit to Russia. After all these incidents, Clinton remembers that there is a peace process, but still Albright, Ross, and Lewinsky are all Jewish, said Elissa.

Al Rai's Nabil Sharif called on deputies to share with the government the responsibility for curbing expenditure. The Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh gave instructions to his ministers to reduce travels abroad, which, according to the writer, is a very encouraging step. Paradoxically, deputies, in big numbers, are travelling everywhere, said the writer. The numbers of deputies travelling to conferences or missions do not correlate with the importance of some of those events, said Sharif. The writer lashed out at some deputies for not being committed to their own slogans, calling for cuts in spending, while they themselves go on meaningless missions. Sharif charged that the importance of reducing travelling, and saving in general, is to provide examples for the Jordanian people to follow.

Washington Watch

Violence is not the response to injustice

Dr. James Zogby

THE U.S. RESPONSE to the attacks on its embassies in Kenya and Tanzania was morally, politically and legally wrong. The U.S. cruise missile strikes on Sudan and Afghanistan have further enflamed segments of Arab and Muslim public opinion, only serving to exacerbate tensions, putting U.S. allies and interests in the Middle East at greater risk. I've said all this already. But having said this in no way lessens my clear condemnation of those who carried out the U.S. embassy bombings, those who ordered these attacks, organised and funded them and those who also continue to issue threats of more attacks in the name of religion or the Arab cause.

The groups who make these pronouncements and carry out these actions are not, and must not be allowed to present themselves as, the authentic carriers of the aspirations and true character of the Arab and Muslim peoples. Rather they are a small band of ideologues blinded by hatred and anger who have usurped the legitimate concerns of Arabs and Muslims and have attempted to exploit them in order to promote their own fanatic agendas.

The damage they have done in the process of carrying out their attacks and making their pronouncements is incalculable.

In the first place they have taken the lives of too many innocents on too many occasions. Their victims are mostly hapless men, women and children who were in the wrong place at the wrong time. There is no cause and no rhetoric that can be used to justify their crimes. Their claim to moral authority is infuriating, as is their use of religion to justify their actions.

What is the difference between their crimes and the crimes of those whom they decry? Are the cold-blooded murderers in Luxor more noble than the savage attacker in the Al Ibrahimi mosque? Or were the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania more high minded than the terror bombing in Qana? In all these instances and so many more, the actions by all sides were immoral and brutal and the victims were innocents.

Those fanatic groups about whom I am speaking have done more than just commit murder; they have also done grave damage to the causes they claim to espouse and to religion itself.

Just look at the fallout from one such incident — the bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City.

In the aftermath of that tragic event I remember praying that its perpetrators were not Arabs or Muslims, because I feared what would happen to my community if they were.

The bombers and plotters were caught, convicted and are now

serving well-deserved prison sentences — but we, innocent Arab Americans and American Muslims are still feeling the impact of their heinous crime against not only our fellow citizens, but against our image and our standing in society.

The World Trade Center bombing was the first terrorist act ever committed by any Arab or Muslim groups in the United States, yet its repercussions are still felt every single day. Our enemies, who have for years sought to target Arab American and American Muslims as supporters of terrorism, latched onto that bombing and have used it and some subsequent outrageous acts of terror to justify their defamation of our communities. While FBI and U.S. State Department annual reports clearly establish that anti-U.S. violence originating from Arab or Muslim groups only accounts for a very small fraction of all such attacks both world-wide and domestically, the propaganda mills of our detractors have painted a very different picture. But more than just defaming us, our enemies have used the fear created by the World Trade Center bombing to push their negative stereotypes of Arabs and Muslims into legislation and public policies that threaten the civil liberties of our communities in the United States.

While we continue to condemn those purveyors of hatred against Arabs and Muslims who use each terrorist attack (whether or not they are committed by an Arab or Muslim) as another occasion to attack us, should we not also condemn the fanatic bands who have, by their terrorist actions and threats of terror, helped to fuel this dangerous anti-Arab and anti-Muslim campaign? They are, with their words and actions, not only harming or threatening to harm "the West", they are also doing real damage to religion and to the image, causes and aspirations of the Arab and Muslim peoples.

While Arab American and American Muslim organisations have spoken out against them, I believe that the time has come for all Arabs and Muslims to declare zero tolerance for the actions and rhetoric of these groups who have done so much harm. There can be no excuses for their actions and no apologies offered for their statements. They are not the spokespeople for Arab and Muslim causes. It is not they who will secure justice for those who suffer from injustice. By their actions, these groups have only brought out repression, hatred, fear and more injustice.

As Arabs or Muslims, we can not absolve ourselves of the need to speak out against these shadowy and cowardly murderers. They claim to act in our name, but they have distorted our image and

hurt our good name. They claim to act on behalf of our causes, but they have done harm to all that we aspire to achieve. They must be politically isolated and condemned.

Having said that, let me make clear that I do not support the tactics that are too often used against these groups or against entire societies as a result of the actions of these groups. Intolerant repression, violations of rights and the condemnable retaliatory strikes that target the innocent as well as those suspected of wrong doing are not the way to deal with extremists and fanatics.

In fact, those responses have all too often played into the hands of extremist groups, creating more injustice, more alienation and more adherents and supporters on whom they can prey. What must replace this tit-for-tat, evil-for-evil, cycle of violence is a call to a higher standard.

It is imperative that America be challenged to end its double standard and translate its stated commitment to "democracy, freedom and rule of law" into a real working programme that meets the needs of the Arabs and Muslims. Arab governments must assume some responsibility here. It is, in part, their surrender to the double standard that allows the injustices to continue. Passivity in the face of oppression creates the feelings of powerlessness and rage that are the breeding grounds of terror. Visionary Arab leadership that promotes an Arab political and economic agenda challenging the West's double standard will give hope and direction to the legitimate yearnings of the Arab people, thereby reducing the appeal of extremist ideologies.

At the same time, Arab Americans and American Muslims must respond politically as well. It is not enough to complain. Our community must organise our resources and mobilise politically to fight for a change in U.S. foreign policy. To a great extent, the "double standard" that exists is a function of the imbalance that exists in U.S. domestic politics. We will not see a just and balanced U.S. foreign policy, until we create more balance in U.S. politics, and that will require hard work and commitment from Arab Americans and American Muslims.

Injustice can not be tolerated and we must demand and work for an end to policies that support the denial of basic rights to our people. But at the same time, with all this having been said, we can no longer turn a blind eye to those who resort to threats and terror in response to injustice. It is imperative that we speak out in a clear and consistent voice against them. They make our path toward justice all the more difficult by their evil deeds and words.

LETTERS

Solutions for the 'jewel in the crown'

To the editor:

AS I walk the surrounding hills, beaches and sands of beloved Aqaba I more and more appreciate how lucky I am to be living here, at this present time, with its history being newly uncovered and its potential future in the balance right now.

Surely it must be realised there is the need of an overall strategy which would ensure the development of the city, yet provide all the amenities of a Jordanian Red Sea holiday resort on its only coastal stretch. Plans are already afoot in the south, but here to the north there is nothing more than a hotchpotch of massive hotel construction taking place which will only benefit external investors instead of meeting the needs of the indigenous Jordanians. In this part of Jordan it should not be all that difficult to find an "acceptable balance between development and conservation".

In my daily walk to the North Beach I follow a quiet dual-carriageway passing the Riding Club and Palace grounds. I visualise a huge Green Park being eventually surrounded by the expanding city but only accessible to vehicles by this one road. Besides the lagoon one could relax in a cool oasis, preferably with fresh-water recycling through fountains, encouraging fish and fowl. This park would encourage walkers to freely enjoy the natural surroundings but yet be easily accessible to a free beach and the sea.

A fast-link railway could connect Amman to Aqaba so that day-excursions are possible at a very cheap rate at the same time halving the travelling time, thereby making the trip feasible for the many Jordanians rather than the few. This in turn would give returns to commercial enterprises from which the only internal investment came. Facilities in the park would be free to Jordanians and healthy walking encouraged, not only in the park, but over the surrounding hills.

Archaeological discoveries can be protected by fencing them off and charging quite expensive entrance charges to those dedicated to the past, but by the use of Son-et-Lumiere techniques and searchlights, Jordan's history could be freely brought to light, as through the town and the Ayla site virtual experiences could be organised depicting the long past and including more modern interests such as the Great Arab Revolt, enacted on site.

The huge park would have many footpaths, some of wheel-chair width but no cycling or football pitches as these are amply provided in the town. The golf course would only need the greens to be grassed, for compacted sand is suitable for the rest of the course, it also makes a good surface for tennis courts.

All these services and others would need to be strictly patrolled by Park Wardens to prevent damage to facilities as from the very start the message of conservation is "got access" to the populace showing they appreciate their royal heritage and what a jewel in the crown Aqaba is.

The whole would present to foreign tourists, in their hotels, an outstanding interest by day and evening, beyond anything else comparable to this part of the Red Sea.

Paul Saint
P.O. Box 1370
Aqaba



Do we really have a hope?

By Dr. Abderrazak Bani Hani

DURING THE past few years many analysts and writers have touched upon, or raised, the issue of Jordan's economic hardship, with some of them posing the dilemma in a rather awkward context. Until the present moment, none has proposed a practical avenue whereby the country can overcome its economic problem, or said anything on how and when the country can prosper. It seems that the issue of comprehensive development became an invincible difficulty that no one dares to look at from a holistic point of view.

To attempt any acceptable and operational solution to our economic problems, and to correct the "built-in" administrative flabbiness, one must comprehend the very nature of the Jordanian economy and society. However, to render this understanding possible, it is necessary to travel back to the origin of our evolution as a state. With this sort of understanding, it would be easy to discern the cumulative malfunctions and distortions that can be held accountable, at least partially, for the present situation. This is to say that our economic hardships don't stem from pure economic causes, but rather from a blend of factors, which include cultural, political, and anthropological agents. Economic causes should be the least to be taken into consideration. And in order to appreciate the meaning of this claim we must delve deeply into the historical process through which Jordan has reached the current stage of development.

At the outset we must recall, or at least try to imagine, the cultural makeup of Trans-Jordan when it was first ripped away from the Ottoman Empire in 1921 to create a political entity now

called the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The region was composed of scattered settlements that were culturally sporadic. Inhabitants in small towns and villages, with direct encouragement from the Ottomans, didn't develop an advanced state of economic interdependence, which was a prerequisite for the creation of a homogeneous society. In the desert, tribes invading each other was a common practice and, to a certain extent, an acceptable norm. Desert warriors' invasion of cities' outskirts was also a common practice. Dwellers of the desert thought of villagers as encroachers who were trespassing on their pastures. As a result, trade and interaction among the various parts of the country did not develop to make the necessary melting pot. Per contra, local fiefdom leaderships were thriving at the expense of a strong nation state.

When Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein led the Arab forces against the Turkish army, he noticed the prevailing fragile social structure and societal fragmentation, especially in the Trans-Jordan region. He pointed to this dilemma in his early days and pledged to do whatever necessary to surpass the perils posed by such a state of affairs. With his determination and astute leadership, the society was unified, and though the concept of a nation state, which was confusedly mixed with the concept of government, didn't exist in the collective mind of the people, the Prince continued to advance it in their daily affairs. He established the first system of public administration to organise the state and enable it to deliver necessary services to the public. Furthermore, the Prince introduced various changes into the newly created state to consolidate its power as a legitimate being that aims at enhancing people's standard of living.

Nevertheless, loyalty to the state, as a necessary condition for progress and development, remained a murky concept. The lack of genuine loyalty has created a large number of "free riders" whose only business is to exploit rather than sacrifice, and who take but never give. For this reason it is not a surprise that many of us just await the opportunity to strike on the state, because we are unable to differentiate between a state and a government. The shadow of this confusing environment is still encroaching on our public affairs. Evidence of this can easily be found by examining how some politicians and officials usually take the decisions to hire new personnel or promote existing staff. In some ministries and public departments over 60 per cent of the employees come from the same extended family, tribe, or hometown of the person who took the hiring decisions; an attitude evident of loyalty to the tribe or town rather than the state. This attitude has, overtime, reinforced the notion of "Regional Determinism" — look after your own even if the concerned employees or officials are not the best or the most knowledgeable.

To cite an outrageous example pertaining to this ridiculous situation, a Director General who was appointed recently replied to a person who congratulated him for his appointment: it is a bounty of God. With such an understanding of public posts, the decision making process will be based on a totally different nature. The decision-maker in this kind of environment will be acting as if the institution he manages is his own or part of his properties. He will feel that he has unbridled discretion over the destiny of the institution.

In 1961 the South Korean per capita income was in the order of \$80 only. At that time, the

country was teetering on the brink of total collapse as a result of the Korean War. However, in less than 15 years, per capita income jumped by more than 100 folds. The underlying secret of that success was the real commitment of the Korean private sector, coupled with government support. It is the underlying Confucian philosophy — calling on people to do whatever possible even to the extent of selling their properties, in order to educate their children and achieve success — that made South Korean entrepreneurs work days and nights in order to make South Korea a success story. The late President Park, who was assassinated after he realised most of his dreams, was in the habit of gathering exporters once a month to ask them about their problems and the bottlenecks they face, and used to give instantaneous orders to solve them. As a result of these meetings the Korean industries were able to increase exports by several hundred percentage points. The issue here is clearly of a cultural nature, which had nothing to do with economics. The whole country was goal oriented and everybody was morally obliged to tend to his duties consistently with the big goal of development.

Our only hope lies in our own sincere efforts and a determination that we deserve to grow, and that we have a message to deliver to humanity. We can shape our development the way we want, and cursing the West or envying the East is of use neither here nor there.

The writer is Secretary General of the Ministry of Planning. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Featu
Rula
By Hanz Pet
Virtu

Israel unveils plans to speed dual-listing of shares

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli government committee has recommended creating a fast-track system for dual-listing Israeli companies on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (TASE) and U.S. stock markets, the Securities Authority said Tuesday.

David Brodet, the former treasury director-general who chairs the panel, told Reuters the authority had in principle accepted the recommendations which were turned over to it on Tuesday.

"They still have to study the proposal but they have accepted its essence," he said.

The authority said the proposed fast-track rules would apply to Israeli companies now traded on the New York and American stock exchanges and Nasdaq.

"The committee reached the conclusion the American law can be accepted as a basis for protecting the (Israeli) investing public," the authority said in a statement.

It said qualifying companies would need only to publish a registration document based on their annual reports rather than a full-fledged prospectus to be listed on the TASE.

In addition, dual-listed companies could meet reporting requirements by submitting the same English-language reports they provide their U.S. investors.

The Brodet panel also recommended unifying reporting requirements of dual-listed and solely Tel Aviv-listed companies.

Among the proposals are that share issues to employees should not require a prospectus. It said Israeli rules on prospectuses should be the same as U.S. rules so that a company could float shares in both countries simultaneously.

It also advocated dropping a rule requiring the immediate notification to the stock exchange of any negotiations with outside parties. Instead, it suggested leaving the timing of notification to management's discretion.

The panel said Israeli law should recognize the U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) standard in financial reporting as long as it included notes detailing the statements according to Israeli standards.

In addition, the panel said rules on private placements should be eased as well as those on initial financial reporting.

The TASE and many listed companies have been advocating a change in the dual listing rules to counter the growing trend by Israeli companies, mainly in high technology, to list exclusively overseas.

Some 90 Israeli companies are listed in the United States, most of them on the Nasdaq, against about 680 on the TASE.

Brodet said the recommendations could in principle be implemented within a couple of months.

Saudi approves industrial projects worth \$2.5b

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has approved the setting up or expansion of 74 industrial projects worth 9.3 billion riyals (\$2.5 billion) in one month, an industry ministry official was quoted as saying.

The official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said the projects, ranging from plastics to foodstuffs, were approved by Industry and Electricity Minister Hashem Ben Abdullah Ben Hashem Yamani in the last Muslim hijra month (July 24-Aug. 22).

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude exporter, is trying to diversify its economy away from oil.

Egypt seeks to promote Christian tourism for millennium

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is seeking to cash in on tourism during the millennium of Christ's birth by promoting interest in the places the Christian Holy Family stopped during its flight into Egypt.

An Egyptian tourism official said Egypt will distribute more than three million copies worldwide of a brochure describing the places where Joseph, Mary and Jesus sought refuge shortly after Christ's birth to escape a massacre ordered by King Herod.

"The distribution soon of three million copies of this brochure is aimed at promoting tourism by enabling Egyptian and international travel agencies to organise tours to the sites on the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ," tourism ministry undersecretary, Sayed Mehres, told AFP.

The brochure will be available in about a month and published in eight languages: English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, he said.

A number of churches and monasteries in Egypt are believed to be built on sites visited by the Holy Family during its flight.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 08/09/1998									
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
355,500	170,000	ARAB BANK	18.3	0.09	41	1070	239040	232.50	234.00 +0.50
2,100	1,100	JOR. PHOSPHATE IND.	11.4	4.24	9	6112	10058	1.64	1.88 +0.24
2,300	1,200	JOR. PETROLEUM CO.	8	0.00	5	1407	1472	1.08	1.03 -0.05
1,800	1,000	JOR. CEMENT IND.	64.4	0.00	3	1400	1568	1.96	1.98 +0.02
8,310	2,610	JOR. IRON & STEEL	19.3	3.26	31	52961	161761	1.07	1.05 -0.02
2,450	1,760	JOR. ELECTRICITY	0	0.00	2	450	810	1.60	1.60 +0.00
870	480	JOR. CUPRUM IND.	0	0.00	3	34000	20400	60	60 +0.00
1,980	1,690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.8	0.00	7	1900	3255	1.71	1.72 +0.01
3,900	1,350	JOR. INV. FUND	22.9	3.36	14	2886	4198	1.47	1.49 +0.02
930	500	PHILADEL. INV. FUND	2	0.00	55	316059	21478	68	69 +0.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 294.43	ICB: +0.10	173	416485	454739		
4,000	1,380	JERUSALEM UNIVER.	9.4	5.60	5	50000	89000	1.38	1.38 +0.00
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 127.18	ICB: 0.00	5	50000	49000		
2,240	1,470	JOR. ELECTRICITY	9.7	5.54	15	18064	28914	1.49	1.49 +0.00
4,030	1,850	JOR. PHOSPHATE IND.	12.5	4.93	1	100	203	2.13	2.03 -0.10
6,300	4,070	ARAB BANK	31.9	0.00	20	25460	19944	76	60 -0.04
1,120	680	JOR. CEMENT IND.	14.7	0.00	3	1400	1568	1.96	1.98 +0.02
1,480	740	JOR. IRON & STEEL	14.7	0.00	2	700	210	30	30 +0.00
1,980	1,690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	9.8	2.03	1	500	965	1.95	1.97 +0.02
1,270	690	JOR. CUPRUM IND.	20.0	0.00	3	34000	20400	60	60 +0.00
1,820	1,060	UNIFIED CO.	5.0	9.73	13	3300	3717	1.13	1.13 +0.00
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 108.93	ICB: +0.38	64	52974	55607		
3,900	1,350	JOR. INV. FUND	11.8	5.01	7	1636	3576	1.93	1.96 +0.03
4,110	1,600	JOR. PHOSPHATE IND.	14.9	0.00	2	750	1200	1.60	1.60 +0.00
6,300	4,070	ARAB BANK	20.7	4.16	21	24600	9199	4.07	4.07 +0.00
11,250	10,050	JOR. IRON & STEEL	10.2	4.13	4	872	9230	10.55	10.55 +0.00
7,350	5,800	JOR. WORSTED MILLS	7.4	3.54	1	200	1130	5.90	5.65 -0.25
5,740	2,400	ARAB PHARM. IND.	7.4	2.70	41	27408	73564	2.83	2.70 -0.13
5,590	1,100	JOR. CEMENT IND.	9.2	0.00	3	1400	1568	1.96	1.98 +0.02
1,440	1,070	JOR. PIPES MANUFACT.	9.4	9.01	6	38050	41658	1.11	1.11 +0.00
2,250	1,370	GENERAL TRADING	7	4.17	2	300	504	1.60	1.68 +0.08
5,540	6,350	ARAB BANK	7.7	7.19	2	300	2085	8.85	6.95 -1.90
1,080	780	JOR. CUPRUM IND.	6.9	0.00	3	34000	20400	60	60 +0.00
2,980	1,700	ARAB ALUM. IND.	12.0	14.71	4	1595	2709	1.70	1.70 +0.00
1,570	880	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	14.2	0.00	10	7000	2473	41	42 +0.01
3,720	1,850	GENERAL TRADING	15.0	3.08	1	1000	3240	3.48	3.48 +0.00
1,040	670	ARAB BANK	24.4	0.00	1	1500	1200	80	80 +0.00
620	390	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	1	200	86	43	43 +0.00
620	330	NATIONAL IND.	9	0.00	1	500	205	39	41 +0.02
1,080	780	JOR. CUPRUM IND.	6.9	0.00	3	34000	20400	60	60 +0.00
2,300	700	WATL. CABLE WIRE, INAC	35.2	0.00	19	12100	9127	72	75 +0.03
730	380	JOR. SULPHUR-CHEN	0.1	0.00	24	31961	13464	41	43 +0.02
1,470	1,150	ARAB PHARM. IND.	12.9	4.78	5	6500	7823	1.28	1.28 +0.00
1,380	1,100	UNIT. HIGH-IND.	10.0	4.35	98	116850	71885	60	63 +0.03
1,930	500	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	9	0.00	23	11250	5814	50	53 +0.03
1,600	1,300	WATL. CHARTER	0.8	7.94	2	1100	1385	1.26	1.26 +0.00
1,080	650	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	9.1	10.77	2	14000	8999	62	68 +0.06
1,590	1,150	EL-SAY RENDI WEAR	41.9	0.00	2	1100	1309	1.19	1.19 +0.00
1,110	910	INTL. TOBACCO	6.5	6.34	4	1800	1646	91	92 +0.01
1,220	850	UNION CH. 4 YRS.	10.5	0.00	1	300	95	90	95 +0.05
1,850	850	JORDAN BANK	9.5	8.14	15	10100	8999	81	85 +0.04
710	580	EXT. ALLOCATION	33.7	0.00	48	73400	49011	65	68 +0.03
1,670	530	WID. EAST COMPLEX	10.1	0.00	4	4500	2490	54	56 +0.02
1,100	780	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	52.1	0.00	1	5000	4750	95	95 +0.00
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 81.68	ICB: +2.04	386	418772	466340		
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 177.89	ICB: +0.54	628	938211	1247685		
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 08/09/1998									
490	270	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	50	21	43	43 +0.00
500	340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	5	11500	4600	29	40 +0.11
860	580	UNION INV.	9	0.00	7	26870	13972	52	52 +0.00
420	140	ARAB INT. INVEST.	9	0.00	1	1000	1000	28	28 +0.00
260	100	JOR. IND. MATCH-JENCO	9	0.00	7	27500	2597	109	109 +0.00
600	370	ARAB FOOD S. IND.	9	0.00	9	7027	2078	29	30 +0.01

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.7316	0.6041	1.4170	1.5288	1711.00	1.9554	5.8040	
DE Mark	0.5775	-	0.3485	0.8167	76.57	0.8806	986.43	1.1288	3.3832
GB Sterling	1.6583	2.8865	-	2.3461	219.53	2.5287	2828.08	3.2350	9.5107
CH Franc	0.7088	122.05	0.4257	-	93.63	1.0753	1204.51	137.79	4.0936
JP Yen	0.0075	1.3062	0.4552	1.0855	-	1.1502	12.88	147.32	4.3769
CA Dollar	0.6654	1.2916	0.4225	1.0566	1.15	-	1270.80	1.4581	4.3265
IT Lira	0.0006	1.9150	0.3485	0.8167	1336.10	0.8911	-	11.42	3.3832
NL Guilder	0.5114	88.85	0.3087	72.53	67.81	0.7803	874.74	-	2.9673
FR Franc	0.1723	0.2582	0.1040	24.4052	22.82	0.2627	33.65	33.6500	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7080	3.7504	0.3770	3.6400	0.3045	3.6728	1517.50	3.4010
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2897	0.5317	5.1340	0.4286	5.1803	2140.34	4.7989
Saudi Riyal	0.2696	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.87	0.0812	0.98	404.62	0.9068
Bahrain Dinar	2.55	1.8807	9.9485	-	9.66	0.8080	9.74	4026.41	9.0217
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0303	1.0303	-	0.0837	1.01	416.90	0.9343
Kuwait Dinar	3.2830	2.3276	12.3125	1.2376	11.85	-	12.06	4981.94	0.9343
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0206	0.9911	0.0828	-	413.17	0.9260
Lebanese/1000	0.86	0.4672	2.4714	0.2484	2.3987	0.2007	2.4203	-	2.2412
Egyptian	0.2940	0.2085	1.1027	0.1108	1.0703	0.0856	1.0789	446.19	-

Energy									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
Brent	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
W. Texas	14.51	14.58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bonny	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dubai	12.47	12.69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.L. Gas	129.00	131.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Metal Prices									
Metal	Bid	Offer							
Gold (oz)	285.2	286.7							
Silver (oz)	4.87	4.9							
Platinum (oz)	357.5	359.5							
AL (3 Months)	1422	1425							
CU (3 Months)	1713	1716							
Zinc (3 Months)	1048	1052							
Lead (3 Months)	542	545							
NI (3 Months)	4440	4460							

Main Equity Indices							
Bourse	Index	Value	Chng	% Chng	High	Low	Pr Clr
NewYork	DOW JONES	7827.58	287.33	3.76	7936.34	7646.14	7640.25
Newyork	S&P 500	1006.09	32.8	3.37	1008.24	973.89	973.89
London	FT-SE 100	5389.4	42.4	0.79	6399.8	5313.9	5347
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	14913.49	123.43	0.83	15294.3	14766.9	14750.1
Paris	CAC 40	3805.78	110.4	2.99	3811.37	3707.18	3695.36
Frankfurt	DAX	6087.66	164.18	3.33	6098.06	4981.62	4923.37

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Study sees a surplus of 20,000 engineers during the coming eight years

ACCORDING TO a study prepared by the Jordan Engineers Association in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society, there are at present about 3,000 unemployed engineers who represent 11 per cent of the 40,000 engineers registered at the association. Furthermore the study predicted there will be around 20,000 surplus engineers during the coming eight years and that 12,000 of those engineers will be outside the Kingdom.

The study calculated the annual surplus until the year 2005 taking 1995 as a base year and found that the highest surplus will be among architects at 226 per cent followed by electrical engineers at 211 per cent. The surplus among mechanical, civil, chemical and mining engineers was found to be 189 per cent, 178 per cent, 145 per cent and 136 per cent respectively.

The concentration of unemployment was found to be in areas that are far from the central region of Amman, Zarqa and Balqa governorates. Precisely, the concentration was in

the northern region more than in the south as the population density was higher in the north compared to the work opportunities and available projects. The study counted around 6,000 engineers in the northern region. In the southern part of the country, the population density and the number of engineers was described as "small."

"The unemployment problem among engineers started when oil prices fell and economic recession affected the Arab oil countries since the mid eighties," the study said. "The crisis exacerbated after the second Gulf war and the return of around 350,000 persons, including a large number of engineers, from the Gulf states."

The study also attributed the high number of jobless engineers to the rush of large number of high school graduates to study engineering at the beginning of the nineties when the number of factories and companies doubled in line with the Kingdom's economic development at the time (AJ Ra'i).

Jordanian pharmaceutical companies urged to focus on marketing, not building plants

ASCIANTIFIC and analytical study of the Jordanian pharmaceutical sector reveals that 70 per cent of Jordanian drugs are exported and that 82 per cent of the exports go to the Iraqi, Saudi and Algerian markets. The study which was prepared by the Ministry of Planning found Jordanian drugs meeting 45 per cent of the local market needs or 30 per cent of the value of drug consumption due to the high prices of imported medicines.

The study demanded the formulation of a joint strategy to develop the Jordanian pharmaceutical industry and stressed the need for cooperation in building up supporting indus-

tries. It also recommended that negotiations with foreign companies be conducted for the early adoption of an international patent law against specific concessions.

"The Jordanian companies should focus on marketing more than on building new plants in order to enter the large U.S. market," the study said noting that most Jordanian pharmaceutical firms focus on the same types of products which are mostly imitated. "The companies conduct research in only two areas: production methods and means for continuity and studies on biological balance," the study concluded (AJ Aswaj).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1998

by C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're like a fine-tuned machine... capable of amazing speed... with the right... This person may not be much to look at, but he or she is intelligent and persistent, with an awesome memory... learn up with someone like that today and you'll not only get a lot done, but increase your revenue considerably.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You can do no wrong today. Everything you touch turns to gold. Everything you ask for comes true. Your friends even point you in the right direction. Why fight it? This success isn't financial, it's the way. It's love, tonnes and tonnes of love, and you're heading right into it. Enjoy!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) This is another good day for practical decisions, with one in particular ripe to be made. You may have been hesitant till now, unsure what would work out best for all concerned. But today it should be getting more obvious. If you still need help, consult a person with more experience in these matters.

CANCER (June 22 to July 21) Get together with friends, plan your course of action and start down the path. This will be more fun than work. You'll be doing something you enjoy, with people you like to be around. Make that your objective, anyway. If you can also be doing something that benefits others, great! You will have made a grand slam.

LEO (July 22 to August 21) Somebody in authority is watching, and thinking of giving you more responsibility. That's OK with you. The more control you have, the more likely things will go your way. But first, you need to show you can produce the results this other person's after. That's how you'll get from here to there.

MIRGO (August 22 to September 22) You've been introspective for the last month or so, cleaning up old messes and solving old problems. Now you get to decide what to do next. Today, take a good step in the right direction by making a decision. Don't choose what you ought to do. Choose what you want to do, out of service to your high ideals.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You need to pay attention to old bills, old obligations and old friends. If you've got a long-term investment plan, add to it now. The money you put into your retirement account will provide security in the future. The time you spend with old friends counts the same way. Don't worry. You'll get the bills paid, too.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) The moon is in Taurus, which calms things down again. It can also indicate you'll run into opposition, in the form of somebody else's rules and regulations. You don't like that, but today you'd be wise to comply. You might actually achieve what you want more quickly if you do, so don't grump too much.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The path toward career success continues, off and on, through the night. If you can get Friday the 13th off, do that. You'll have a break by then. Now, back to today. That push cannot be denied, but you won't reach your goal by coasting. There's work involved, too. To wind up in the right place, you have to steer.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 20) This is a great day for romance, especially if it's with a person you've known for years. It's debatable whether new love is better than old love, but when you fall in love again with somebody you already love, you've got the best of both worlds. Just relax and let it happen.

AQUARIUS (January 21 to February 19) There's been a flurry of activity lately, and more to come. Today, find time for yourself. Stay home tonight if possible. If you must have a meeting with friends, invite them over to your place. It's important for you to build up your energy. You've been going through a little thin.

PISCES (February 20 to March 20) Pisces is the sign of creative genius. It's a little difficult for you to develop your natural talents, however. You're interested in so many things it's hard to settle on one. You need to set up some sort of structure in order to achieve your goal. If you're not sure how, learn from a person who's already done it.

Birthstones of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen propose setting up commercial services company

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen Tuesday discussed a proposal for setting up a joint commercial services company to be entrusted with increasing commercial cooperation between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The two sides agreed to prepare a joint memorandum to be presented to the parties concerned in both countries detailing their suggestions for increasing exports to both the Jordanian and Palestinian markets.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of the meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian Businessmen Council, which reviewed trade and investment relations.

The council noted that economic relations fall short of the aspirations of the two countries and attributed the low trading and investment activity to the obstacles placed by Israel in order to monopolise and increase exports to the Palestinian market which imports \$2.2 billion worth of Israeli products a year.

The two sides discussed possibilities of exporting

iron, oil products, detergents and vegetable oil to Palestine.

The two sides also discussed means of increasing joint investments in both countries in order to achieve economic integration between both parties.

The Jordanian side was headed by Jordanian Businessmen Association President Hamdi Tabba' while it was headed by the Palestinian side by Hamdi Masrouji, president of the Palestinian Businessmen Association.

AFM trading falls by 28% in August

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Turnover at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) fell by 28.1 per cent during August compared to the previous month, a stock market report showed Monday.

According to the report, turnover last month amounted to JD36.9 million compared to JD51.3 million during July but the number of shares traded totalled 18.8 million, an 11.2 per cent increase over the total recorded during July.

The average daily turnover registered during the 22 days of trading in August amounted to JD1.7 million compared to JD2.6 million during 20 days of

trading in the previous month.

The report indicated that the banking sector received the bulk of the monthly trading by totalling JD25.6 million, or 69.4 per cent, followed by the industrial sector with JD8.6 million, or 23.3 per cent of the overall trading.

The services sector recorded JD2 million, 5.4 per cent and finally the insurance sector took JD700,000, or 1.9 per cent.

Trading of stocks in August covered 54,700 stocks carrying a total value of JD551,500, compared to 14,300 stocks in July worth JD145,200, the report said.

The AFM's price index closed 0.69 point, or 0.38 per cent, less than the previous month.

The report pointed out that the price index of the banking sector increased by 3.76 points, or 1.29 per cent, while the industrial, services and insurance sectors slipped by 4.27, 1.23 and 1.62 points respectively.

Many brokers believe that the decline in the turnover and price index was due to the half-year "weak" results by most of the companies in the industrial sector.

They said that among the firms that were below the expectations were the Arab Potash and Phosphate Mining companies, the major hard currency earners for the Kingdom.

Many believe that the drop in their half-year results was due to the decline in their exports due to the low demand in the world markets and the loss of some markets, especially in eastern Europe.

Among the big winners were the Arab Bank and the Housing Bank and some pharmaceutical firms.

El Al stresses marketing over cost cuts

TEL AVIV (R) — Faced with slumping tourist arrivals in its home market, El Al Israel Airlines is fighting back with stepped-up marketing efforts rather than cost-cutting measures.

President Yoel Feldschuh said Tuesday. "Our method isn't to make efficiency measures. Our method is to create demand and overhaul the marketing system, so that on the revenues side we are getting more," Feldschuh told Reuters.

"On the expenses side we are working via a multi-year plan. We don't need to take dramatic measures on this side."

A career air force officer, Feldschuh joined state-owned El Al as president in October 1996, only months after a spate of suicide bombings by militants caused foreign tourist arrivals to Israel to plummet.

The industry has yet to recover. Arrivals to Israel in the first seven months of the year were down 7.0 per cent from the same period of 1997.

Feldschuh said the thrust of El Al's new strategy is to abandon its traditional focus on the

peak flying seasons — the summer, Passover/Easter and the Jewish High Holidays in September-October — and cater instead to year-round travellers.

"Our customer base of frequent fliers is getting much more attention in our business vision. Business fliers also are. These groups fly throughout the year," he said.

"Israelis love to fly. The economic situation has improved, there's no more travel tax and air fares are cheap. We finally understand this, perhaps a little late in the game," he added.

To better serve frequent fliers, the airline is reconfiguring its fleet. It is cutting the number of jumbo jets, which it used to pack with passengers during peak seasons on its main routes, and replacing them with medium-sized jets.

By the end of 1999, El Al's fleet will have grown to 30 jets from the current 28, enabling it to offer more departure times on its routes.

El Al is also offering custom-made flights like one-day trips to London, improving cabin

service and adding more legroom on its jets.

"The company was very production-oriented, to getting the planes up in time. It was less directed towards marketing, less customer-oriented. This in essence is the big change we're making," Feldschuh said.

He said management had to go slow on efficiencies because of El Al's special circumstances.

As the country's only regularly scheduled international airline, staff turnover is low because there are no competitors from whom to lose or attract staff. The airline is also saddled with a government-imposed ban on flights during the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) and holidays.

Because it is an obvious target for militants, El Al also employs tough and costly security measures on its flights.

The company reported a loss of \$4.2 million last year, a big improvement over the \$83.1 million loss in 1996.

But Feldschuh said he did

not see profits this year. He noted that consultants estimated three to four years ago that the Sabbath-flight ban alone costs the carrier some \$50 million a year in lost profit.

Despite service improvements and a 2.7 per cent rise in revenues per kilometre flown last year, the number of passengers El Al carries has not grown significantly.

"Over the last year we've succeeded in stopping the erosion of our market share, and in a few places we've even gotten some back, even though we are not doing battle over market share but 'wallet share'."

Feldschuh said El Al's impending privatisation next year would yield the airline benefits, although the government plans to float only a minority 49 per cent of equity to ensure the continued ban on Sabbath flights.

Feldschuh said privatisation would settle long-running problems over the airline's pension fund and introduce the management to the discipline of the financial markets.

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U.S. OPEN

Andre Agassi fights back upset bid before match halted by rain

NEW YORK (AP) — Andre Agassi woke up just in time.

The eighth-seeded Agassi was just two points away from being ousted from the U.S. Open on Monday night when

7), 0-3 when play was postponed until today because a steady rain washed across the National Tennis Center.

In the early afternoon, play was delayed for 2 1/4 hours

matches at the year's final Grand Slam tournament. Defending champion Patrick Rafter led No. 14 Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 3-2, and No. 12 Jonas Bjorkman led Jan

women's fourth-round matches. No. 2 Lindsay Davenport downed No. 10 Nathalie Tauziat 6-1, 6-4; No. 4 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario defeated No. 15 Anna Kournikova 7-6 (7-5), 6-3; No. 5 Venus Williams stopped No. 12 Mary Pierce 6-1, 7-6 (7-4) and No. 13 Amanda Coetzer upset No. 7 Conchita Martinez 6-4, 4-6, 6-2.

The women's quarterfinals pair Davenport against Coetzer and Williams against Sanchez Vicario in the bottom half of the draw.

The top half, scheduled for today, has No. 1 Martina Hingis, the defending champion, vs. No. 6 Monica Seles, and No. 3 Jana Novotna against No. 11 Patty Schnyder.

Agassi was outgunned at every turn and appeared disinterested as Kucera powered his way to the first two sets and a service break in the third. He was more worried about Kucera's repeated tossing of the ball on serves.

"How many times is he allowed to do that?" Agassi demanded of umpire Norm Chryst. "So I can do it on every serve, right?" he asked.

The irritation seemed to awaken the listless Agassi, who broke Kucera's serve in the seventh game. When he fought off a break point to hold in the eighth game, the third set was level at 4-4.

Kucera, known as Little Cat because his coach, Miloslav Mecir, was called The Cat, was three points away from victory two games later when he led 5-4. But Agassi went to the moonballs — a soft, high arcing shot that was used ad nauseum in a women's fourth-round match earlier in the day — to change pace and befuddle the Slovakian right-hander.

It worked. Agassi dropped only one point on his next two serves to send the set to a tiebreak, where he won the first four points.

Kucera responded by winning five straight points for a 5-4 lead, two points from victory.

A forehand that skidded on the baseline, a shot that Kucera thought was long, pulled Agassi even. Two points later, 2 hours, 13 minutes into the match, Agassi reached his first set point. He didn't need another.

By now in high gear, Agassi ripped through the first three games of the fourth set, breaking Kucera at 40 in the second game before the rain halted play.

Sampras had 18 aces and never lost his serve in his victory over the 18-year-old Safin. It was the 600th match win of his career.

"I was cracking it pretty hard throughout the match," Sampras said. "I got the serve going, which has been a little bit up and down throughout this past week. Today it seemed like it clicked."

After winning the final six points of the tiebreaker in her win over Pierce, Williams celebrating by shimmying to the net.

"I really shouldn't have done the dance, I should have waited until later," she said. "I didn't plan to do the dance."

I planned to win the second set really easy."

At 5-5 in the second set, the two delighted the crowd with a game that lasted 13 minutes, 57 seconds, and ended when Williams converted her seventh break point. Pierce broke right back and took a 4-1 lead in the tiebreaker, but didn't get another point in the match.

In the only singles match completed before the afternoon rain, Coetzer and Martinez traded moonballs and baseline rallies for 2 hours, 39 minutes. One game had 28 points, including 11 deuces, and consumed more than 20 minutes.

Low-key Lindsay in Open quarterfinals

NEW YORK (AP) — For someone ranked third in the world and seeded second in the U.S. Open, Lindsay Davenport is keeping a low profile.

No beads bouncing all over the place. No headbands holding her hair. Just low-key Lindsay, winning her way into the quarterfinals, where she'll meet Amanda Coetzer.

"I like being the quiet underdog, knowing I can go about my business," Davenport said after defeating Nathalie Tauziat 6-1, 6-4 on Monday. "I'm always still in the second week these days." The underdog image fits because despite her fancy ranking and seeding, Davenport has never won a Grand Slam event. Her best performance on tennis' main stage were three straight semifinals — at last year's Open and the Australian and French this season.

She seemed to take a step back when she lost in the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, beaten by Tauziat. That made Monday night's victory over the French player that much sweeter.

"I guess so," Davenport said. "I wasn't happy when I lost to her at Wimbledon." She also wasn't surprised. It was her second loss in 10 matches against Tauziat, both times on the grass of the All England Club. Hardcourts like the ones at Flushing Meadows are more suited to Davenport's game.

"She is definitely more comfortable on the grass than I am," Davenport said. "I love playing on the hardcourts. I'm definitely more comfortable on them. You get a higher bounce when helps me. I don't have to bend as much as on the grass. I can get her serve back a little easier on the hardcourt."

"Still, Davenport played cautiously. "I felt like I'm playing well," she said. "I didn't want to be in



Number two seeded Lindsay Davenport of the U.S. returns a shot to number ten seeded Nathalie Tauziat of France Monday at the U.S. Open. Davenport won 6-1, 6-4 (AFP photo)

any danger out there." And there were moments when she might have been. Tauziat, who went on to the finals after beating Davenport at Wimbledon, was down 3-1 in the second set and drew even.

"When she starts serving well, you have to really concentrate to hold your serve."

Davenport said, "A couple of times I think I was down a lot of break points and only got broken once, which is great." Davenport arrived at the Open as the hottest player on the tour. She swept three consecutive hardcourt tournaments in California and had a 14-match winning streak before losing to

Steffi Graf in the semifinals of the Open warmup at New Haven.

"I'm playing well, concentrating very well," Davenport said. "I'm taking advantage of the opportunities that were given to me." She is in the best shape of her life and equipped with a new mindset.



Number eight seeded Andre Agassi of the U.S. hits a forehand to ninth seeded Karol Kucera of Slovakia Monday at the U.S. Open in Flushing Meadows, New York (AFP photo)



Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain celebrates in the closing game of her fourth round win over Anna Kournikova of Russia during U.S. Open play at the USTA National Tennis Center September 7. Sanchez-Vicario won 7-6 6-3 (Reuters photo)

he reverted to the moonballs of his youth and the power game of his winning years. That was enough to send his match against No. 9 Karol Kucera to a fourth set.

Then the rains came. Again. Kucera led 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (5-

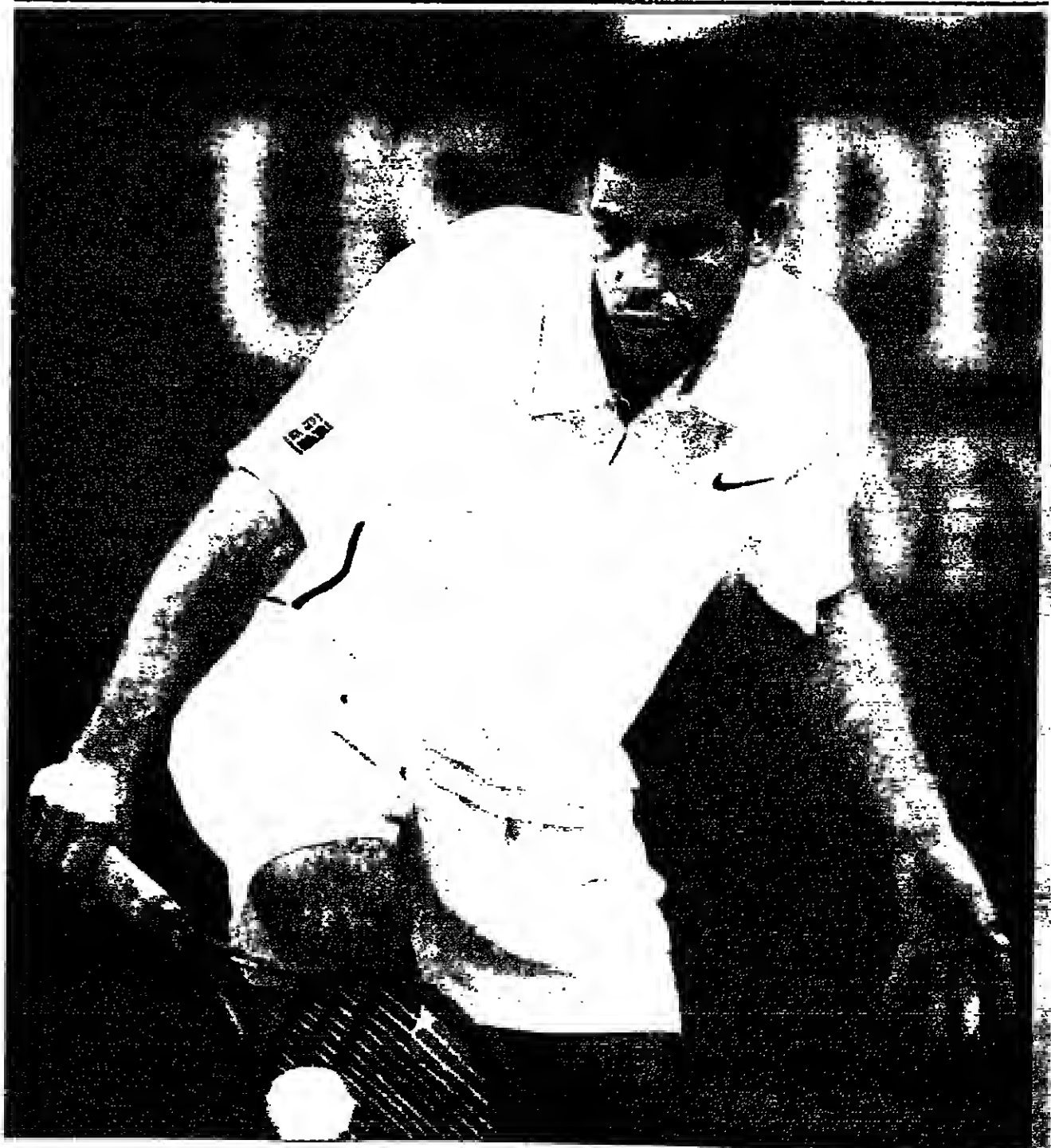
when a severe thunderstorm lashed the area, turning the sky midnight black. Tornadoes were spotted in the New York area, although no damage was reported at Flushing Meadows.

The second stoppage affected two other men's fourth-round

Siemerink 6-4, 1-4 when play was stopped.

All three matches were scheduled for today.

Earlier, top-seeded Pete Sampras gained a quarterfinal berth by defeating Marat Safin of Russia 6-4, 6-3, 6-2. In

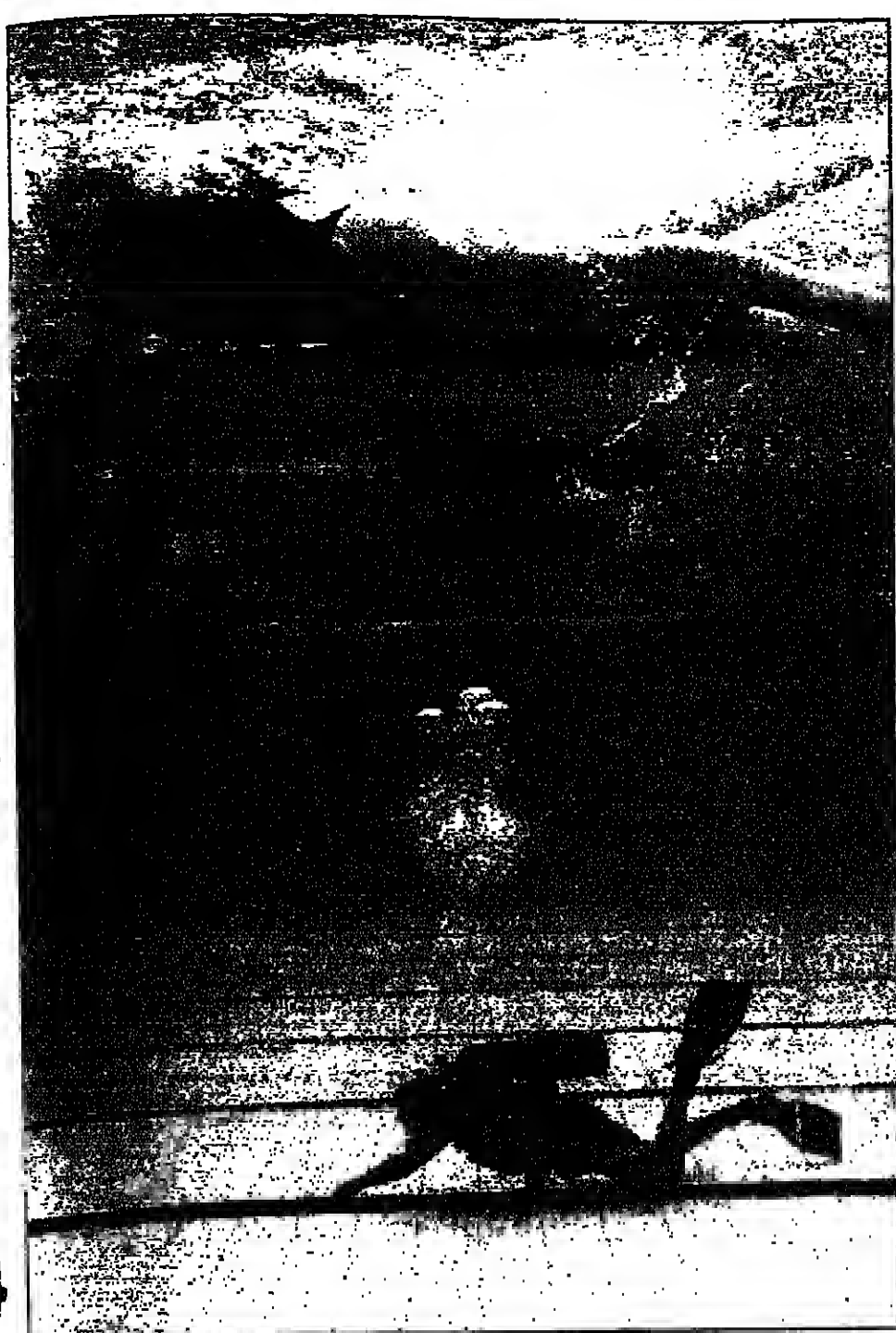


Pete Sampras

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Higham Yates Theatre
	TEL: 463-1144	TEL: 463-1144	TEL: 569-9238	TEL: 567-7420	TEL: 593-7793	TEL: 593-7793	TEL: 462-5155
	Robert Duvall & Tea Leoni...in DEEP IMPACT Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Leonardo Di Caprio...in THE MAN IN THE IRON MASK Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD '1' DR. JEKLY MS. HYDE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15 CONTACT Shows: 8:15, 10:30 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria GODZILLA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria CITY OF ANGELS Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM at 10:30 p.m.	WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY

Wire of the St. Louis
Monday at Busch Sta
and of 61 for the season

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An Australian television technician checks his equipment while competitors practice for the XVI Commonwealth Games Tuesday at the aquatic centre at Bukit Jalil National Sports Complex in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The games are set to begin 11 September (AFP photo)

Del Piero ready to sign new deal

MILAN (AFP) — Italian champions Juventus are negotiating a new three-year contract with Alessandro Del Piero that will earn their star striker around \$15 million.

Del Piero's existing five-year contract expires in 2000, after earning him a total of 10 billion lira (\$6 million).

However, Del Piero's value on the international market place has rocketed in recent years and his agents are anxious to make sure the 23-year-old does not get shortchanged by the Turin club.

They are seeking 25 billion to 30 billion lira for the 2000-2003 deal, as before, net of taxes.

The club may be flinching at the asking price, but director general Luciano Moggi said: "We want him to stay, Del Piero wants to stay, and a solution will be found... not long after October 5 at the latest."

Del Piero confirmed that a deal to keep him away from likely predators from the English Premiership or the Spanish Liga was imminent.

"There's a willingness on both sides to stay together, it's just a question of finding the time to talk about it," he said.

Final whistle for Kohl's football hero

BONN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl can add a new name to the long list of unemployed he received on Tuesday — Germany's soccer coach Berti Vogts.

Vogts's shock resignation as national trainer knocked the election off the top news spot and forced Kohl's campaign team into defensive formation.

"Do what Berti did," read protesters' placards at Kohl's first election rally late on Monday after the news broke.

Kohl was Vogts's biggest fan. He basked in the glory of Germany's soccer successes and loved being photographed with the team. Vogts returned the favour, saying Kohl usually brought the team good luck when he was in the stands cheering.

But this year, just as Kohl entered the field for the September 27 election, the terraces turned against the chancellor's hero.

The final whistle came after Germany's plodding performance at the World Cup in July.

Dark passions were roused in this football-mad nation and the media bayed for blood.

Vogts quit.

The opposition Social Democrats and Greens, sensing Kohl was wobbling, made their run on Tuesday when figures

showing unemployment still above four million were published.

Both parties relished telling Kohl he should follow his friend to the changing room.

"Team mates should stick together," said Greens spokesman Juergen Trittin. "When the team is not playing well and you have lost the fans' support, it's time to go," he suggested.

Kohl's spokesman Otto Hauser tried to sideline the Vogts affair, saying the chancellor would stay the course.

"Some in the SPD," said Hauser, changing sporting metaphors, "are in the home straight and believe they are going to win. But the final stretch is still to come. It's like a cross-country race." Kohl, who once played for his local side, is still up to five points behind another former soccer player, his SPD challenger Gerhard Schroeder.

In a last-minute tactical switch to close the gap, Kohl's Christian Democrats have started stressing the chancellor's record as a world player over the past 16 years.

"World Class for Germany," read Kohl's campaign posters.

"Vogts was world-class," said the SPD's campaign manager Franz Muenterting. "But he



Picture dated 19 June 1998 of German soccer coach Berti Vogts, during a press conference in Nice, southern France. Vogts, 51, has resigned, announced the German Football Federation (DFB) Monday (AFP photo)

drew the right conclusions at the right time." The Kohl-Vogts comparison was too tempting for the press to ignore too.

Commentators trawled through clippings for quotes showing how

closely the pair identified with one another. "The only difference between them would be," said the Rheinische Post newspaper, "Berti Vogts went before he was booted out."

St. Louis goes crazy as McGwire hits 61st

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Horns blared, shoppers stopped and cheered, and St. Louis generally went berserk when Mark McGwire hit his 61st home run.

And it was even more out of control inside Busch Stadium, where McGwire lined a 1-1 pitch from the Chicago Cubs' Mike Morgan deep into the left-field seats in the first inning, tying Roger Maris' 37-year-old record for most homers in a season.

Eveo Chicago's Sammy Sosa, who with 58 homers is chasing both Maris and McGwire, applauded into his glove in right field.

The roar from the 50,530 fans, including Maris' sons, lasted for several minutes, well into the at-bat of teammate Ray Lankford. But it masked emotions that ran even deeper in this baseball-crazy town.

Many were moved to tears after watching McGwire

circle the bases, slap hands with Cubs' first baseman Mark Grace and third baseman Gary Gaetti, a former Cardinals teammate, before greeting his 10-year-old son Mathew at home plate with a bear hug.

"To be here, I will remember and cherish my entire life," said Rick Faccin, 44, of Alton, Illinois. "The reception he received and what he did as he rounded the bases gave me chills all

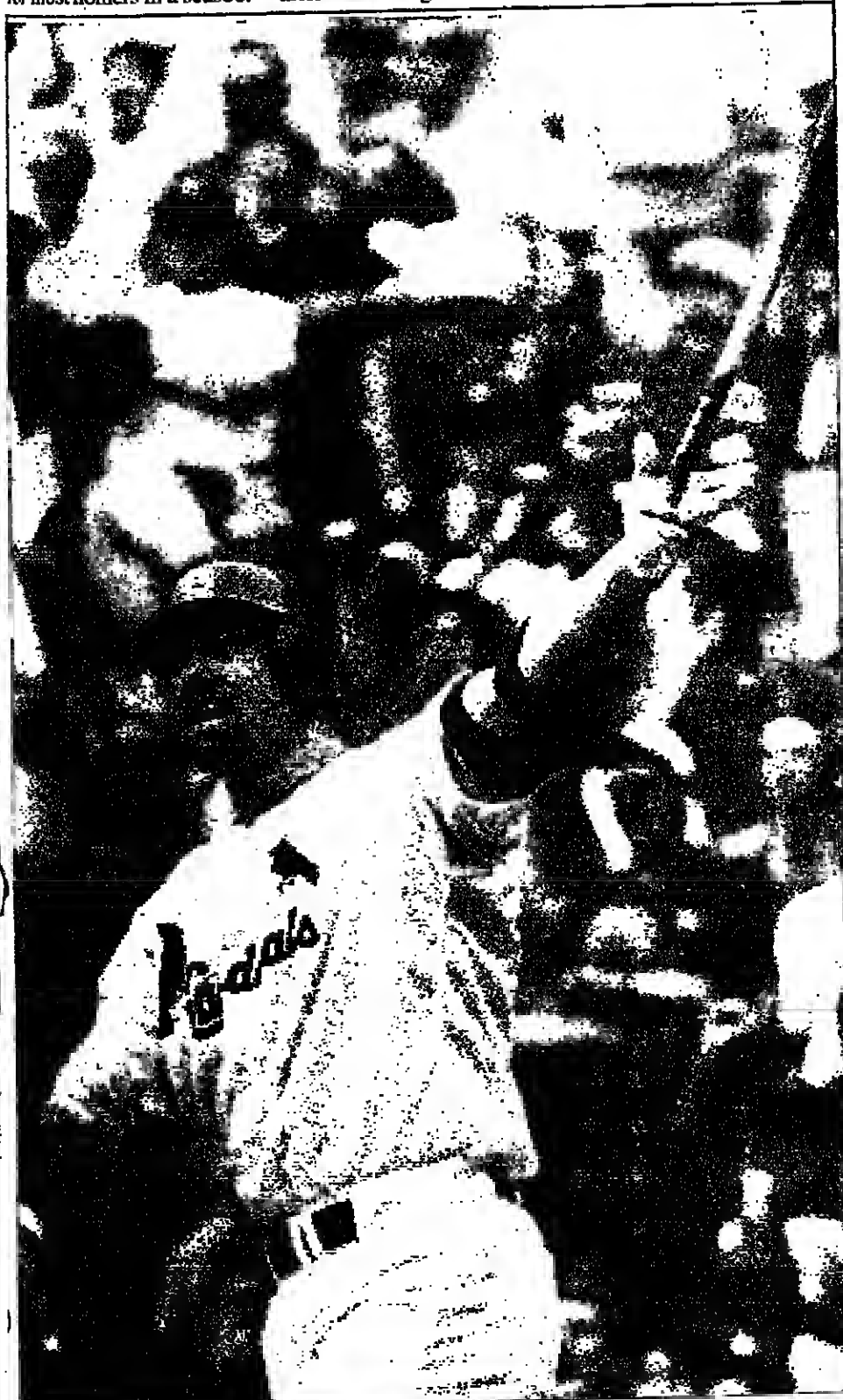
over."

"When I saw the ball hit off the glass and I knew he tied the record, I had a few tears in my eyes," said Don Fisher, 51, of Marion, Illinois. "It made me feel like I was part of history since I saw it live."

During a curtain call, McGwire thumped his chest and pointed skyward as he looked to the Maris family, sitting behind photographers along the first-base line, and other family and friends.

"He acknowledged us. He tapped his heart, like dad was in his heart," Kevin Maris said.

McGwire said he also looked for his parents and mouthed the words, "Happy Birthday" to his father, who was celebrating his 61st birthday.



Mark McGwire of the St. Louis Cardinals releases the bat as he watches his 61st homerun Monday at Busch Stadium, in St. Louis, MO. McGwire tied the homerun record of 61 for the season set by Roger Maris in 1961 (AFP photo)

Juventus worth more than Man. United

MILAN (AFP) — Manchester United may have had a staggering offer of 575 million pounds, but Juventus is worth even more than the Premiership club according to Italian businessmen.

Reports of the proposed takeover at Old Trafford by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB television company have shocked the money-men here, who believe it must be part of a wider plan to create a Super League.

Claudio Pasqualin, head of the national soccer agents association, said: "It's a sensational offer, and clearly excessive."

"The Stock Exchange value of Manchester United is far lower than the 1.700 billion lira offer and you can't justify that figure with even the most optimistic prediction for merchandising sales."

Trying to explain the move, Pasqualin said: "Murdoch's criteria are clearly different. They must fit in with a larger project, perhaps one that includes the Super League."

"Certainly, though, he's not being guided by his emotions."

Considering his track record, it must be something concrete. However, Pasqualin had no doubts about the value of the jewel in the crown of Italian football.

"Juventus? 2.000 billion lira," Pasqualin told daily Tuttosport on Tuesday.

"By the usual method of assessing a company's value, it would be less. But since Murdoch is not taking contracts, merchandising, TV rights and ticket sales into account, Juventus is clearly worth more."

"It's a more important club than Manchester United, it's got more tradition and more prestige," he said of the team who have won three of the last four Italian league titles and reached the last three European Cup finals.

Sergio Bertin, manager of Lazio's 50 billion lira signing Christian Vieri, was more pragmatic, and pointed out the differences in fashion sense among Britons and

Italians.

"The merchandising sales in Britain are influenced by fashion," he said. "But young people here take more care about the way they dress. So they are less likely to buy certain articles of clothing."

But Bertin, like Pasqualin, also saw United fitting into a wider plan for European football, and one that includes the breakaway Super League.

"The figures are simply out of this world," he said, "and can't be explained by the ownership alone of the club. There is a bigger project, and football is only the means to the end."

"Perhaps it is a Trojan horse, to enable (Murdoch) to buy the rights for the Super League."

Juventus director general Luciano Moggi said: "The offer seems an exaggerated one, but the surprise has to be offset by the reputation of the man behind it. Murdoch knows how to do business, and he looks a long way ahead."

JORDAN TIMES E-MAIL:
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The British Council EXAMINATIONS

GCE/IGCSE

The British Council would like to announce that entries for Edexcel Foundation (London Exams) GCE January 1999 session and the University of Cambridge IGCSE/GCE November 1998 session will be accepted from Sunday 13 - Tuesday 15 September.

We encourage candidates to register during this period to avoid payment of the late entry fee.

Registration time: 09:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Candidates are required to bring with them a recent photo, an official identification and a copy of their passport.

Please ask for Miss Diana Muasher

Registered in England as a charity No. 209131

unicef

The United Nations Children's Fund Country Office in Jordan seeks qualified candidates for the following position:

APO Information/Communication Officer-NOB
Duty Station: Amman, Jordan

Purpose of the Post:

Under the guidance of the Representative, responsible for the development, planning, implementation and monitoring of the information and communication activities, to support the country programmes in Jordan and the programme for Palestinians in Jordan.

Major Duties and Responsibilities:

Specifically the incumbent of this post would:

- Organise the production, distribution and follow-up of information and training material to targeted audiences to promote children's and women's rights and capacity building in the programmes.
- Develop a strategy and plan for the production, dissemination, monitoring and evaluation of information materials to implement and mobilise support for the programmes of cooperation in Jordan.
- Disseminate advocacy materials from HQ, Geneva and Regional Office, research findings to government officials and programme staff, and ensure exchange of experience and information with them.
- Provide technical support to government counterparts in the development and appropriate use of communication for social development.
- Organise special events and activities and generate public support for them in close collaboration with the Representative's office and MENARQ. Evaluate activities on the basis of communication efficiency.

Minimum Qualifications:

- University degree in Social Science, Communication, Journalism or related fields.
- Minimum of 7 years progressive experience in information/communication related to social development in an international context.
- Excellent command of English and Arabic languages both spoken and written required. Other U.N. languages an asset.

Other skills:

- Excellent computer skills including desktop publishing.
- Proven ability to formulate, plan and execute ideas on development as well as transfer of knowledge and skills.
- Ability to express clearly and concisely ideas and concepts in written, oral and audiovisual form. Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to organise training.

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS SEPTEMBER 30, 1998

Please send detailed resume in English quoting reference 03/98 to:

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